

An Effective Lesson.

By Rev. J. T. Roche, in Messenger.



HERE is a story told of the late Archbishop Hennessy, of Dubuque, and of the manner in which he convinced a non-Catholic young man who came to him seeking a dispensation that "one religion is not as good as another." The applicant for the dispensation was one of those talkative fellows who are ready on the slightest provocation to air their views in matters pertaining to religion. He started in to make the Archbishop understand from the very outset that he took no stock in any religion whatsoever, and that he regarded all religions in the same light. He came, he said, to ask for the dispensation merely because the young lady in the case so desired it, but he wanted it distinctly understood that it was a matter of the utmost indifference to him. The manner of the man and his flippancy of speech immediately aroused the ire of the good old Archbishop, and he determined there and then to teach him a lesson which he would never forget. "You say," said the Archbishop, "that one religion is as good to you as another, and that they are all the same.

Now, young man, I am going to prove to you that such is not the case. When you leave here go up the street a couple of blocks and you will find a magnificent stone church, and next door to it a fine stone residence. Knock at the door, and you will be admitted. You will find there a non-Catholic clergyman, the Rev. Dr. So-and-so. He is a good friend of mine. Ask him to marry you. You